

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina/Uruguay/Brazil

DATE DISTR. 22 March 1948

SUBJECT Activities of Lithuanian Communists
in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil

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1. Although local Lithuanian Communist groups are comparatively small, they constitute one of the most fanatically pro-Soviet racial groups in the River Plate area. Their fanaticism coupled with their generous financial contributions have made them a potent Communist force both in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Antonio Vaivuskas, director of the Lithuanian Communist newspaper, Darbas, in Montevideo, reportedly receives upwards of 25,000 pesos monthly in contributions from Lithuanian Communists of Argentina and Uruguay. This fund is used in furthering the cause of Soviet Lithuania.
2. In spite of the fact that Lithuanians are not considered to be Slavs, it is reported that Lithuanian Communists are playing an increasingly important role in the direction of Slav Communism throughout South America.
3. Antonio Vaivuskas, whose real name is reported to be Wojewodzki, is one of the principal leaders of Slav Communism in South America. It is believed that he received funds from Brazilian Communists during the years since his expulsion from that country, and that he formerly maintained liaison with the Soviet Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, and continues to maintain liaison with the Soviet Embassy in Buenos Aires, in addition to the Soviet Legation of Montevideo. A few months ago, he received a check for 110,000 cruzeiros from an unidentified Russian Communist in Brazil who is reportedly of aristocratic origin and has a German name.
4. It is believed that Vaivuskas aided several Brazilian Communists to enter Uruguay from Brazil when the party was declared illegal in the latter country. It is also believed that he was involved in attempting to arrange entry for eight Lithuanian Communist leaders who were recently arrested in Porto Alegre. A married couple named Kazakievicius was included in the group, and the others, who have not been identified, had been Brazilian delegates to the Slav congresses of Montevideo and Buenos Aires which were held in 1943 and 1946 respectively.
5. Jorge Matusevicius is one of the most active of the Lithuanian Communist leaders in Buenos Aires, and is also in contact with Vaivuskas and officials of the Argentine Soviet Embassy. Prior to 1939, he was president of the local Lithuanian Economic Society, which was a nationalist-Catholic organization. Consequently, it is assumed that his conversion to Soviet Communism occurred in recent years.

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